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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005806

SIPDIS

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FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

STATE FOR AS/PRM DEWEY, PRM/P, DAS/IO SANDERS AND IO/D
USAID FOR A/AID, AA/DCHA, AA/AFR, DCHA/FFP, PPC/DP, PPC/DC
USDA/FAS/FOR CHAMBLISS/TILLSWORTH
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH/USAID
BRUSSELS FOR USAID PLERNER
USUN FOR CSERWER
NSC FOR JDWOKEN
OMB FOR TSTOLL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [KUNR](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#) [KUNR](#) [EAID](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#)
SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON UNHCR-WFP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
SIGNED ON JULY 9 - SELECTION OF THREE PILOT COUNTRIES FOR
DIRECT WFP DELIVERY OF FOOD TO THE END USER

REF: (A) ROME 3566

SUMMARY

1. UNHCR AND WFP SIGNED A REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON JULY 9 WHERE IT WAS AGREED THAT, ON A PILOT ONE-YEAR TRIAL BASIS, WFP WILL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BASIC FOOD RATION IN FIVE REFUGEE PROGRAMS. USMISSION HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED BY WFP THAT BOTH UN AGENCIES HAVE AGREED ON PAKISTAN, UGANDA AND SIERRA LEONE. TANZANIA, GUINEA AND BANGLADESH - REMAIN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR THE REMAINING TWO
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PILOT TESTS. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

2. RUUD LUBBERS, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) AND JIM MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) SIGNED ON JULY 9 A REVISED MOU AIMED AT STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AT THE FIELD LEVEL IN DELIVERING FOOD AID TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) WORLDWIDE. CLAUSE 5.8 OF THE REVISION STATES: "ON A PILOT BASIS AND FOR AN INITIAL DURATION OF 12 MONTHS (PER COUNTRY), WFP WILL ASSUME, AT ITS OWN COST, RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BASIC FOOD RATION IN FIVE REFUGEE PROGRAMMES. THE PILOT COUNTRY PROGRAMMES WILL BE SELECTED JOINTLY BY UNHCR AND WFP BASED UPON JOINTLY AGREED CRITERIA AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONCERNED WFP/UNHCR COUNTRY TEAMS."

3. WFP HEADQUARTERS HAS ADVISED USMISSION THAT BOTH UN AGENCIES HAVE NOW AGREED ON TESTING WFP FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF BASIC FOOD COMMODITIES IN REFUGEE OPERATIONS IN PAKISTAN, UGANDA AND SIERRA LEONE. TANZANIA, GUINEA AND BANGLADESH - REMAIN UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION FOR THE REMAINING TWO PILOT TESTS.

4. IN THE AGREED UPON COUNTRY OPERATIONS, WFP WOULD ASSUME THE LEAD IN NEGOTIATING THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND DIRECTLY CONTRACT WITH IMPLEMENTING PARTNER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) FOR FINAL FOOD ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTION
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TO BENEFICIARIES. NOTE: THIS IS STANDARD PRACTICE FOR WFP IN NON-REFUGEE PROGRAMS, AND WFP BELIEVES THAT THIS PILOT APPROACH COULD RESULT IN AN OVERALL COST-SAVINGS TO DONORS. WFP IS ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION WOULD ALSO IMPROVE SINCE ONLY ONE AGENCY (I.E., WFP) WOULD RETAIN OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY FROM START TO FINISH. END NOTE.

5. FOR THE FIVE PILOT COUNTRIES IN WHICH WFP WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION, WFP AND UNHCR WILL ENACT TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS SO AS TO ENSURE A SMOOTH HAND-OVER OF RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES. AT THE END OF A YEAR'S TRIAL PER COUNTRY, THE PILOT ACTIVITIES WILL BE JOINTLY EVALUATED. THE FINDINGS OF THAT EVALUATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS WILL THEN BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UNHCR AND WFP.

COMMENT

16. IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE FIVE PILOTS WILL IMPLY
ADJUSTMENTS IN THE OPERATIONAL BUDGETS OF BOTH UNHCR AND
WFP, EQUIVALENT TO THE COST OF ONWARD MOVEMENT OF FOOD

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ACTION PRM-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	WHA-00	SRPP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	E-00	UTED-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	SA-00	FMP-00	SAS-00	/003W			

-----11CC5B 030849Z /38

P 030715Z DEC 02
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7146
INFO EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DHAKA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BERN
USDA FAS WASHDC 2450
USEU BRUSSELS 2981

USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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COMMODITIES FROM THE EXTENDED TO THE FINAL DELIVERY POINT
AND OF THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISTRIBUTION PER SE.
AS WE ENTER THE LAST MONTH OF THE CALENDAR YEAR, HOWEVER,
BOTH UNHCR AND WFP NEED TO BE URGED TO COME TO CLOSURE
SOONEST ON THE SELECTION OF THE REMAINING TWO PILOT REFUGEE
OPERATIONS. HALL

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